REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 22, 2004, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-40 remain pending in the application. Claims 38-40 have been allowed. Claims 26-28, 34-35 and 37 have been deemed allowable over prior art but are objected to for depending on rejected base claims. Claims 1-8 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Sekizawa (U.S.P. 6,430,711). Claims 14-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Sekizawa. Claim 25 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Carter (U.S.P. 5,038,319). Claims 29-32 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Carter. Claims 9-12 and 23-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Sekizawa in view of Carter. Applicant propose the following arguments in traversal of the prior art rejections.

The present invention relates to a remote management system and method for managing a processor. Referring to an exemplary embodiment of Fig. 2, the system includes a processor 14 for processing and outputting an object and a remote management apparatus 6 connected via a network connection section 46. An information recording section 19 records information about contents of an operation performed by the processor during a preset time period or a preset number of executions by the processor relative to a start time. Operation section 44 creates an operation log including cumulative information about the processor operations. This information becomes transmitted to the remote management apparatus 6. At the remote management apparatus, the log information becomes analyzed with past log information and on this basis,

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instructions for performing repair or replacement of components are transmitted to the

processing apparatus. As a further feature of the invention, the remote management apparatus

can perform diagnosis of the process device based on information transmitted thereto.

Turning to the cited art, Sekizawa relates to a system for monitoring the consumable

items, such as inks and papers, used in a printing apparatus. Referring to Fig. 1, several local

printers P(n) provide status information $\phi 1$ (such as the amount of consumed ink or error

occurrence) to a local processor 10. The information from several printers P(n) become

aggregated over time, and at a second time period, second status information $\phi 2$ becomes

transferred from the local processor 10 to a central server 20. The status information $\phi 2$ is sent

by e-mail, and since the information is a composite of several printers P(n), this reduces the

requirements for the communications equipment needed on individual printers P(n) and further

reduces the transmission traffic for the system. The central server 20 collects information to

allow the operator at server 20 to dispatch a technician to the local unit in the event of an error or

to provide a supply message in the event a consumable item runs low at a particular site.

Carter relates to logging errors that occur at a photocopy site and being able to access the

error log in a remote manner for purposes of diagnosis by a remotely located operator. For

purposes of minimizing the amount of transmitted data, and therefore minimizing cost, Carter

teaches a filter to limit the amount of data transmitted to the remote operator. See col. 6, lines

56-64.

The Examiner contends that Sekizawa teaches each feature of claim 1. In view of the

procedural posture of the case, we propose the following arguments in traversal of the rejection

without substantive modification of the claims at this juncture. Claim 1 describes a method of

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remote management including a remote management apparatus to manage a condition of the processor based on a transmitted operation log. The Examiner generally relies on col. 26, lines 35-60 of Sekizawa as teaching this feature. However, the cited portion relates to a local unit 10 which collects information from printer units P(n). The cited portion bears no relevance to a "remote" unit as described by claim 1. To the extent that the Examiner considers the local unit 10 as remote from a printer P(n), for instance, the status information $\phi 1$ provided to the local unit 10 does not provide management for the printer P(n) based on $\phi 1$. Therefore, Applicant submits that the Examiner has misconstrued the disclosure of Sekizawa.

Relatedly, we would submit that Sekizawa uses a collection of status information $\phi 2$ for purposes of generating reports on the usage of inks or papers at a printing site, for example. This relates to the condition of a consumable item rather than a condition of the processor that processes and outputs a process object. The Examiner further concedes that Sekizawa does not teach transfer of analysis information back to the device. See paragraph bridging pages 14-15 of detailed action. Therefore, Applicant submits that Sekizawa does not teach a remote management condition of the processor as described by claim 1.

Because claim 19 includes recitations analogous to that for claim 1, claim 19 is also patentable over Sekizawa for the reasons set forth above for claim 1. Claims 2-18 and 20-24 are patentable based on their dependency since Sekizawa does not either teach each feature of the dependent claims, or suggest the features of these claims.

With further regard to claim 9, this claim describes notification of an upgrade from a remote management apparatus and automatic upgrade based on the notification setting information. The Examiner correctly concedes that Sekizawa does not teach this feature and

cites Carter to make up for the deficiency. In this regard, the Examiner relies on col. 4 and the boot ROM 139 of Carter. However, the cited ROM only relates to booting of information from co-located elements at the photocopier. This does not teach any interaction such as notification from a remote apparatus or the automatic upgrade as described in claim 9. Since Sekizawa does not teach software upgrade as a remote process even generally, the Examiner's proffered motivation to combine is also not supportable. Claim 9 is patentable for at least these additional reasons.

With further regard to claim 10, this claim describes transfer of data from the remote management apparatus back to the processor. The Examiner concedes that Sekizawa does not teach this feature but cites Carter at col. 6 to make up for the deficiency. The cited column relates to transmission of machine data from the processor to a remote analysis site. Contrary to the Examiner's contention, there is no transfer of analysis data in the other direction, except to elicit transfer of machine data from the processor. See col. 6, lines 9-11; lines 15-16; lines 22-23; lines 50-52. The Examiner suggests changes can be made remotely. However, Applicant submits that the disclosure relates to remote diagnosis, which contemplates transfer of substantive information from the machine to be assessed to the analysis site, but does not contemplate remote repair. The Examiner's assumption that changes (e.g. repairs) can be made remotely in Carter is speculative and cannot support a rejection. Claim 11-12 and 23-24 are patentable for similar reasons as described for claim 10.

With regard to independent claim 25, the Examiner contends that Carter teaches each feature of this claim. Claim 25 describes transmission of both image data and information to be transferred to the remote diagnosis apparatus. The Examiner cites col. 4 of Carter to teach these

aspects of claim 25. However, the cited portion does not teach transmission of image data.

Rather, the data corresponds to operational information and position of user settings. Moreover,

since Carter specifically seeks to limit the amount of data sent for analysis (see col. 6, lines 56-

64), Carter actually teaches away from the feature of image data transfer to the remote apparatus

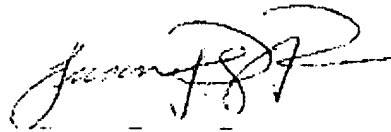as claimed. Claims 29-32 and 36 are patentable based on their dependency.

Applicant has added claims 41 and 42 to describe features of the invention more

particularly.

In view of the above, claims 1-42 are in condition for allowance and should be passed to

issue at the earliest possible time. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be

best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to

contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/748,386

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and

the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to

said Deposit Account.

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WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 22, 2005

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the attached Figure 5 to replace the original drawing for Fig. 5. The new Figure corrects an error for the display device labeled by reference number 52. The correct reference number is 51. The modification conforms the drawings and specification. No new matter is entered.

In addition, Replacement Sheets for Figs. 1 and 4 are attached. It is believed that the corrected figures obviate the drawing objections.

Attached: Substitute Figs. 1, 4 and 5.